

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DLOS-03 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01

COA-01 COME-00 EB-04 EPA-01 NSF-01 OES-02 ACDA-05

AEC-05 AGR-05 DOTE-00 FMC-01 INT-05 JUSE-00 OMB-01

CIEP-01 CEA-01 OIC-02 AF-04 EA-06 EUR-08 NEA-06 /123 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6468

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 10805

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN VIEWS ON FORTHCOMING LOS CONFERENCES

REF: USUN 4414

1. POL COUNSELOR DISCUSSED SUBSTANCE OF REFTTEL OCTOBER 30 WITH EMILIO FIGUEREDO, TECHNICALLY ON LEAVE FROM VENEZUELAN FONMINISTRY LOS TASK FORCE BUT WHO HAD BEEN AT THE UNGA IN NEW YORK OCTOBER 25 TO DISCUSS LOS MATTERS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES. SPEAKING UNOFFICIALLY, FIGUEREDO SAID GOV WOULD BE WILLING TO HOST AN LOS CONFERENCE FOR LONGER THAN 2-3 WEEKS NEXT SUMMER (OR LATER), PROVIDED A FINAL ACT COULD BE SIGNED AT CONCLUSION OF SUCH SESSION. GOV, HE STATED, WOULD NOT WISH TO HOST A FORMAL SESSION WHICH DID NOT PRODUCE A TREATY OR SOME SORT OF FINAL ACT.

2. FIGUEREDO STATED THAT AMBASSADOR ANDRES AGUILAR WAS HESITATING OVER ACCEPTING STAVROPOULOS' UN JOB (FIGUEREDO SAID CONFIDENTIAL

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STAVROPOULOS IS SLATED TO BECOME THE NEW GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER),

NOT THE LEAST REASON BEING THAT AGUILAR, IF HE ACCEPTS, WOULD HAVE TO SEPARATE HIMSELF FROM THE VENEZUELAN LGN DELEGATION.

3. FIGUEREDO SAID THAT AFTER TALKING TO A NUMBER OF "TERRITORIALISTS", INCLUDING BRAZIL, HE IS ENTIRELY CONVINCED THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NEVER ACHIEVE ITS TERRITORIAL SEAS AND STRAITS OBJECTIVES UNLESS THE US YIELDS ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, WHICH FIGUEREDO DESCRIBED AS A KEY ISSUE AND AN IMPORTANT EMOTIONAL PREOCCUPATION FOR THE LDC'S. FIGUEREDO STATED THAT IF THE US WERE TO GO ALONG WITH A CONSENT REGIME FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, VENEZUELA, WHICH HE SAID HAD SO FAR ADOPTED A NEUTRAL POSITION ON THIS MATTER, WOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE TO WORK FOR THE US OBJECTIVES ON TERRITORIAL SEAS AND STRAITS.

4. FIGUEREDO SAID SO MUCH WORK REMAINED TO BE DONE BEFORE AN ACCEPTABLE LOS TREATY COULD BE SIGNED THAT HE FEARED FORMAL SESSIONS WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE INTO JANUARY 1976. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE WISEST COURSE FOR THE US TO FOLLOW WOULD BE TO WORK DILIGENTLY BEHIND THE SCENES DURING THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIODS FOR AGREEMENTS AMONG THE MAJOR POWERS ON THE IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE LOS ISSUES. THESE AGREEMENTS WOULD THEN BE REFINED AT THE FORMAL SESSIONS. IF THE US COULD OBTAIN SUCH AGREEMENTS (IN WHICH SOME FLEXIBILITY AND COMPROMISE WOULD BE REQUIRED) THE US WOULD BE IN A POSITION, OPINED FIGUEREDO, TO HEAD OFF DOMESTIC CRITICISM FOR LACK OF PROGRESS AT THE FORMAL LOS SESSIONS.

5. COMMENT. FIGUEREDO, AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, IS A KNOWLEDGEABLE AND EXPERIENCED LOS EXPERT. HIS VIEWS, EXPRESSED WITH SINCERITY AND EMPHASIS, EVIDENTLY REFLECT THOSE OF A NUMBER OF LATIN AMERICAN AS WELL AS OTHER COUNTRIES.
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